

Politics

Welcome

Has there ever been a better time to study Politics? From the politics of energy to climate change, the politics of migration to global pandemics, and democratic accountability to the politics of self-identity, questions of power, representation, and protest loom large. Traditional party politics creaks under the weight of social transformation, while longstanding left/right allegiances are challenged by the rise of populism, nationalist sentiment and multiculturalism. These modern challenges require political responses that address their here-and-now demands with policies, programmes and answers of immediate relevance to the concerns of today. The study of Politics here at Lancaster examines the contemporary political processes, arguments and compromises through which these challenges are met, denied or avoided.

The nuts and bolts of politics occurs at local, national and regional levels. Your studies at Lancaster will therefore include analysis and exploration of UK domestic party-politics and policy, as well as the politics of nations such as the USA, China and Russia and regional contexts such as Latin America and the EU. You'll be equipped with the theories, concepts and approaches

through which politics is academically engaged and understood, as well as gaining applied knowledge of how politics takes place on the ground.

No matter what your ultimate career goals, studying Politics at Lancaster will give you the skills necessary to analyse and confront the political complexities of the modern world. You'll have the opportunity, via work-based learning on our Richardson Institute Internship Programme, or a placement year, to gain experience which will prepare you for your future career and to develop skills that will make you more employable. You'll also have opportunities to travel abroad*, visiting countries you could be studying as part of your degree, either for short-term visits or as year-long study abroad options.

Many of our students choose to combine the study of Politics with International Relations, and many with other subjects such as Philosophy, Economics, or History. We hope that this booklet provides useful material to inform your own choice, but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Joint #11

for Politics
Times Good University Guide 2021

#13

for Politics graduate careers
Guardian University Guide 2021

*Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions.

Find your future career

You will be able to gain real work experience on our degrees through opportunities in all years of study.

Internships

We are home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Typically, the Institute offers over 60 internships per year to our students to undertake research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects with heritage or humanitarian organisations.

Placements

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. With specialist support, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Work experience is integrated into the curriculum in optional modules. 'Politics Employability and Engagement through Outreach' involves working with sixth form students and alumni who work in NGOs, the media, politics and the civil service.

Graduate destinations

A Politics degree provides you with knowledge and transferable skills relevant to a range of different future careers. We will help you determine your direction and support you in getting there. We do this by offering subject-specific support from academic tutors and specialist careers advisers.

Employers look for clear thinking, broad vision, independence, the capacity to locate and analyse problems and exercise judgement in their solution. It is also very useful to be able to present information lucidly and argue effectively for favoured courses of action. Our graduates find that their analytical and organisational skills, plus their ability to achieve insights into problems, are greatly valued by employers in many areas, including:

- + Civil and Diplomatic Services
- + Politics and Government
- + International Charities and Non-Government Organisations
- + Teaching and Education
- + International Finance and Banking
- + Journalism and Media
- + Business, Management and Consultancy

Careers service

We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers



Your degree

BA (Hons) Politics

Year 1

In your first year, you will be introduced to university-level study of Politics, exploring the discipline's main subfields while developing your writing skills and analytic abilities. You will study three year-long modules that are equally weighted.

Core Module *Politics in the Modern World*

You'll be introduced to key themes in the study of modern politics, and gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world. You will learn about: the foundations of the modern nation-state, and the ways in which our institutions can reflect or fail to meet the ideals of liberal democracy; the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas.

Areas of study will typically include:

- + **Political Theory:** the study of the scope, nature, and justification of state authority, and the history of political thought.
- + **British Politics:** the study of the theory, and political reality, of British governance in the twenty-first century.
- + **Comparative Politics:** the study of the various institutions of the nation-state, in a comparative context.
- + **Ideologies:** the study of political ideologies such as (neo-)liberalism, (neo-)conservatism, socialism, and fascism, their cohesiveness and social/political function.
- + **Political Behaviour:** the study of the ways in which agents and groups engage with politics in the age of mass and social-media.
- + **Politics and Religion:** the study of the relevance of religion to politics in contemporary society.
- + **Politics in a Global World:** the influence of global movements and events on domestic and international politics.

Because of the increasing interdependence of the national and global, domestic politics and international relations can no longer be properly understood in isolation from one another. To ensure the best possible foundation for a degree in Politics, in first year, we strongly recommend you also take International Relations: Theory and Practice.

Recommended Module *International Relations: Theory and Practice*

We will introduce you to central aspects of the discipline of international relations, providing a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics. You will learn about: the dominant features and power relations of the contemporary global system; the nature of sovereignty and security, their expression and limitations; the real-world problems confronting the international community today.

Areas of study will typically include:

- + **International Relations Theory:** the study of how relations between states can and should be viewed and theorised.
- + **Regional Studies:** the study of key regions of the world, and the politics of their interactions.
- + **International Institutions and Law:** the international organisations, customs, and rules that govern inter-state relationships.
- + **Global Politics and Belief:** the study of how religious and ideological belief can shape international politics and the relation of states.
- + **International Crises:** the study of pressing issues confronting the international community, such as environmental collapse, technological advance and terrorism.
- + **International Relations and the Domestic:** the study of how the domestic agendas can shape and influence international politics.

Minor Module

You will select a third module to complement your studies in Politics, potentially from among the following subjects: Criminology, History, Sociology and Philosophy. The choice available will be subject to any timetabling restrictions or entry prerequisites.

Year 2

In your second year, you will build upon the theoretical understanding of the state developed in the first year and begin to develop expertise in the political systems of those regions which interest you the most.

You will select up to eight modules from an extensive range of 15-credit Politics modules:

- + Elections, Voters and Political Parties in Europe
- + Power in British Politics: The Role of the Prime Minister
- + Art and Politics
- + European Union Politics
- + The Governance of Global Capitalism
- + Russian (Inter)national Politics
- + Public Policy
- + Indian Politics, Society and Religion
- + Economics for the Real World
- + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
- + Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
- + Politics and History of the Middle East

You may wish to complement some of the above with 15-credit International Relations modules:

- + International Relations, Security and Sustainability
- + China's International Relations
- + International Relations and Politics of the Asia Pacific
- + Peace Studies in Action

You can read module descriptions online at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Ben Crumpton *BA (Hons) Politics and Philosophy*



The Department has been a fascinating, welcoming and supportive environment from the beginning of first year to the end of final year. It is staffed by a diverse and friendly team that are always on hand to assist in matters, academic or general, whenever you need help. Lancaster offers a wide and varied range of modules throughout the degree which are taught with up-to-date research and essential critical insight. During my time at Lancaster, I have had the

opportunity to travel to New York and Boston with the department where I was fortunate enough to visit the UN Headquarters along with many other brilliant points of interest. I have also participated in numerous extra-curricular departmental activities such as research internships and conference assistance. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time studying in the department and I would recommend it to any prospective student wholeheartedly.

Year 3

At third year level, we offer specialist modules on topics such as race, human rights, the media, and political violence, as well as in-depth study of the political contexts and systems of Britain, the US, and other regions.

You can choose eight modules, or combine six modules with a dissertation. Here are the 15-credit modules currently offered:

- + Africa and Global Politics
- + Britain in the World
- + Buddhism, State and Political Monks
- + China in the Modern World
- + Conspiracy Theories in Politics and Society
- + Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
- + Indian Politics, Society and Religion
- + Islamic Politics
- + Media, Religion and Politics
- + Politics of Cultural Diversity
- + Politics of Global Danger
- + Religion and Violence
- + Society and Politics in Latin America
- + State and Religion

Dissertation

You will have the opportunity to undertake a 10,000-word dissertation; this is a sustained investigation on a politics subject that interests you. This develops your employability and research skills, as well as your ability to work independently, with input from an academic supervisor. We offer options to complete a dissertation with field studies (potentially incorporating an international study trip), or with external collaboration (for example, via our Richardson Institute internship programme) to enhance your ability to reflect on the impact of academic work.

Placement Year Degree

Placement year students spend Year 3 on a professional work placement. In your final year, you will select from the optional modules listed above.

Joint major students

For joint and triple major students, you will study core and optional modules in your second and third subjects in approximately equal weightings through all years of study. Find out more online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly update and introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered should therefore be seen as indicative and may differ from that presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, following consultation with students and institutional approval, and in response to curricular developments and the emerging needs of the student body. Please check our website for the latest information.

Your global experience

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your College or your Students' Union.

Study abroad

Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, you can apply to study abroad for the whole of your second year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Our current partner universities are located in Europe, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Canada and the USA. Living in another country and studying your subject from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel

Alternatively, there are usually shorter options in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as the US, Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These programmes include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery. You may also be able to attend a summer school at one of our many overseas partner universities.

In the Easter vacation, we have previously offered a ten-day trip to New York and Boston. In 2019 our U.S. trip visited:

- + The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, where we discussed U.S. civil rights and J.F.K.'s presidency.
- + The 9/11 Memorial Museum, where we gained perspective on the impact of 9/11 on the U.S.
- + The United Nations, where we met with a UN official to discuss their role.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

**Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions.*

Politics, Religion and Values

This fascinating degree was launched in 2021 and is designed for students who want to explore and deepen their understanding of the close links between politics, religion, society, ethics, and philosophy. You can find details on our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title	Award	Degree length	UCAS code	Typical offer
Politics	BA Hons	3 years	L200	ABB
Politics (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	3 years	L201	AAB
Politics and International Relations	BA Hons	3 years	L250	ABB
Politics and Sociology	BA Hons	3 years	LL23	ABB
Chinese Studies and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	T1L2	ABB
Economics and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	LL21	AAB
French Studies and Politics	BA Hons	4 years	RL12	ABB
German Studies and Politics	BA Hons	4 years	RL22	ABB
History and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	LV21	AAB
History, Philosophy and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	VOL0	AAB
Law with Politics	LLB Hons	3 years	M1L2	AAB
Management, Politics and International Relations (Industry)	BSc Hons	4 years	N230	AAB
Philosophy and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	VL52	ABB
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	BA Hons	3 years	L0V0	AAB
Politics, International Relations and Management	BSc Hons	3 years	LN30	AAB
Politics, Religion, and Values	BA Hons	3 years	LV28	ABB
Spanish Studies and Politics	BA Hons	4 years	RL42	ABB

Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can take a placement year with many of our degree programmes and should select the placement year variant when you apply. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year By contrast, you can apply for a study abroad year after you begin your degree. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

For information on other entry qualifications, such as BTECs and International Baccalaureate, as well as fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Get in touch

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Philosophy and Religion (PPR)
Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4YL
www.lancaster.ac.uk/politics
Message a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat
E: ppr@lancaster.ac.uk

 @PPRLancaster

For the latest Covid-19 information, please visit:
www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants

Important information

The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication in May 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after publication. You are advised to consult our website at www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.

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